Prof Fitch

HAMILTON LIFE.

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College.

VOL. XIV. CLINTON, N. Y., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1911. No. 8.

OCTOBER LIT. CRITIQUE.

A Short Though Excellent Review by Rev. Henry White—Good For First Number.

Fortunately (or is it unfortunately?) the Hamilton Literary Magazine, like some fathers' sons in College, has a reputation to sustain. And this reputation grows halos with age. This month's Lit. cannot compete for a halo. It is, however, passable. The year is started at least, and it is something for a board of editors to get the wheels turning. The number is not trivial or tiresome.

Part of the contents is, of course, safe from this critic's ban. The College ought to be grateful for the ballad by Carl Dudley, '92, for the cut and the biography (too brief—bare life facts and no flavor) of Samuel H. Adams, '91, and for the well-edited Alumniana. That thoughtful essay, too, I suppose is beyond my reach, for has it not won a prize and passed a committee? I should like to have a whack at its spelling and paragraphing and "vain repetitions." It is a pity that so good a paper should be marred by so many minor defects.

For the rest: most of it is creditable. Lyon's write-up of his interview with aviator Dixon is excellent. The style is a trifle stiff; there is a mistake of tense in the first sentence; in the last paragraph the crowd rather than the boy is put a mile and a half above earth; some few descriptive details, e.g., the "pad of cheap white paper,"—seem lugged in: but I liked it nevertheless, and vote its author a good reporter.

Callahan's tale is funny. If incongruities make humor, there is no lack of it here. The mixtures of good English and sailor-talk, nautical terms and modern phonetic spelling, "hooks" with h's and without, "ings" with g's and without, furnish examples of inconsistency if not incongruity. And that was a laughable lapse, not altogether inappropriate, which made "bein' a Suffragett" a "capitol(!) offense." "Howsumover" the tale easily weathers all gales of criticism and despite the kind-hearted turtles deserves a port on Lit's pages.

In my judgment the descriptive

Continued on page five.

FIRST COASTING ACCIDENTS.

Jessup, '15, and Howard Clark, a Guest on Hill, are Injured.

The icy coating on the Hill has brought out the sleds sooner than usual. As the coasting is very fast, the Freshmen, of course, had many mishaps. But unfortunately two men have not come off so easily as most of the inexperienced do. After Sunday Chapel, Sherman, '14, bringing his guest, Howard Clark of Utica, down the Hill, jumped the Arbor rail and collided with a tree. Sherman was uninjured, but Clark's ankle was badly broken. The injured man was taken into the home of Edward North and later was removed to his home.

Last Friday evening, Jessup, '15, ran into a tree below the Psi U. turn and so injured his ankle that he will be confined to his bed for some days. The injury was said by Dr. MacFarland to have been caused by a broken blood vessel which caused the ankle to swell greatly.

DR. SNAPE AT Y. M. C. A.

Dr. Snape of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, addressed the Sunday afternoon Y. M. C. A. service. It was an informal talk on "The Needs of the Christian Life."

"In the first place every man needs Christ. He has the power to search through the heart and find there the wants of life. In every case, whether it be the rich young ruler who wanted to find the way to salvation, or the woman of Samaria whose heart was unsusceptible to religious influences, his words always laid bare the true evil."

"Not only do men need Christ, but He needs men. The great appeal to men of the past has been to enter into the Christian life, because they need it. Too little has been said of the fact that the Church needs the help of others. If a man is appealed to on the ground of the aid he can give to other men he is more likely to become interested. This is the foundation of the 'Men and Religion' movement."

Martin, '11, has instituted a class of squad leaders in the Gymnasium.

CHICANERY VERY EVIDENT.

Charles-Murphy-Dri-Thompson Rinky-Dinks a Little Deal—How Much Did You Get, Dri?—Come Up!

Last week Life printed an able editorial deploring the penchant of every crowd in College toward the so-called "deal." It teemed with eternal verities, did that article—caustic allusions to personal error. And then have you heard the potent influence of all that rhetoric? It's this:

During the latter days of last week "Dri" Thompson cut classes and sat up half the night performing weird, mysterious functions. He halted a student on the Campus; whispered conversation followed and then with a slap on the back and a "Thanks, Old Man," "Thompy" continued his aimless meandering through the drifts and slush of the early November snow. Thus all day Wednesday and into the early hours of Thursday.

Friday morning Dr. Stryker officially announced before the college body, in chapel assembled, that Clancy Doren Connell, '12, had been elected president of the newly formed Latin Club; that Connell, desiring further research into the alcoves of ancient classical lore had striven earnestly since early fall to master the devious twistings of the fundamental Periphrastic and that he was peculiarly suited for the responsible position.

Prof. Chase seemed highly elated and exclaimed "habeas corpus" the whole morning, seeming unable to concentrate upon his work, so pleased was he, so thrilled with enthusiastic contemplation of the pensive earnestness of youth.

The point is: "Dri" engineered Connell's election. "Grubby" Groves, the logical candidate, was overwhelmingly defeated. The whole affair is palpably a political scheme to raise him to eminence and power, who yet knows not the dative plural of "hasta." Will the College sanction this? "Little Greek" and "Bib" are incensed. So is "Baldy" Wood, and justly so. Connell refuses an interview and exclaims to all, "Bene est," which he actually believes to be a mandate to seek the regions of brimstone and smoke.

IMPORTANT LIFE MEETING.

Freshman Competition changed—System of Collecting News Instituted.

At a meeting held in Mr. Merz's Kirkland Inn last Tuesday night, the Life Board enacted several important rules. While not of particular importance to the College and to graduates in general, these rules may interest those Alumni who were members of the Board.

Firstly, the system of Freshman competition has been changed to provide what seems a more equitable standard of judging the qualifications of the candidates. Up to Christmas, the competition will be conducted as heretofore: giving the candidate credit for the number of words he gains publication for. At Christmas, all but the highest six or seven candidates will be eliminated and to these, in addition to their regular work as carried on during Fall term, the same assignments will be given each week. The write-ups of these assignments will be marked by upperclassmen on the Board, and the credits gained in this manner—a percentage of 80 giving 800 credits, etc. —will be reckoned in with their credits gained on items. At Easter one Freshman will be elected to the Board; in June two more will be elected; and for the vacant position, all Sophomores, whether having tried out as Freshmen or not, may compete. By this scheme a student who had not gone out for Life in his Freshman year, and who afterwards wishes to do so, may have the desired opportunity.

Primarily as a surer method of collecting news, and secondarily to give underclassmen continuous responsibility in the publication, each Sophomore is required to interview a certain number of prominent men of the student body and of the Faculty and to write up such information as they may secure each week.

A system of try-outs for Juniors aspiring to the Editorship will be established whereby a candidate is permitted to publish one or more numbers under supervision only of the Editor, and he will be known to the College as the sponsor for that issue. Thus the Board will have some opportunity to judge the qualifications of each candidate for the office before election.

It was also decided to expel from the Board by a two-thirds vote any member whose work or whose attention to duties the Editor finds unsatisfactory. The Editor was empowered, in company with the Editor of Lit. and the President of the Press Club, to try to arrange for the establishment of a Press Room. As usual the Life Board elections will be held after Easter vacation.

PLAY TO BE "THE WESTERNER."

Committee Will Hear Charlatans Try-outs November 25.

At a meeting of the Charlatans held in the Trophy Room of Commons Tuesday afternoon, it was decided to present at the coming Junior Week a modern comedy entitled "The Westerner." The play contains a cast of fifteen characters, there being but three feminine roles. Try-outs for positions in the cast will be held on Saturday, November 25.

According to the report of the play and preliminary arrangement committee as adopted by the Club, the try-outs will be held in Commons before a committee consisting of Prof. and Mrs. Shepard, Professors Scollard and Chase and Thomas S. Jones, jr., of Utica. Scenes have already been assigned and competitors are now hard at work learning their respective lines. Each man will be given a separate trial at which he will present his part complete with the necessary "business." In this way, it is hoped, a competent cast will be selected and the men best fitted for the roles chosen. All competitors for feminine parts will appear in skirts.

Contrary to prediction the College has shown that it desires the founding of a permanent dramatic club. There are at present more than twenty-five paid members, while it is believed that before the month is out the number will have swelled to fifty.

The Hamilton chapter of Delta Upsilon will hold an Informal next Friday evening.

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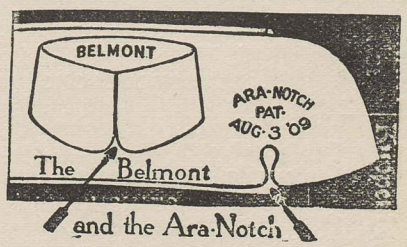

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EDITORIAL.

Two severe accidents already in coasting. With the Hill so fast the Freshmen should be exceedingly careful.

* * *

Owing to incorrect proof reading, a sentence was omitted from the editorial in last week's issue regarding deals. As the article read, the Editor apparently charged that the deal as mentioned was consummated; but such an accusation was far from his intention. The deal had been quashed some time previous to the election and, so far as the Editor knows, the election was entirely free from any unfairness.

In making this correction, the Editor apologizes to the College and to the class and hopes that no harm was done.

* * *

Again as to Deals.

So far, Life's suggestion that steps be taken to abolish deals has brought forth considerable approval. In fact, most of the crowds are willing to sign a compact promising to abstain from deals, but there still exists a fear even among the crowds most approving the scheme, that the compact will not be strictly adhered to—a very clear evidence of the suspicion mentioned in last week's editorial.

Life does not claim that a signed compact is the best preventive of deals or is even necessary; the remedy lies with the crowds—what does each crowd think will bind their men to their promises? Some time this week a meeting will be called for prominent Upperclassmen so that the whole matter may thoroughly be discussed. And, meanwhile, Life urges that the subject be given careful thought by the whole College.

* * *

Alumni Coaching.

Throughout the football season, especially when the Team was not fulfilling expectations, so much criticism was directed against the Alumni system of coaching at Hamilton that Life feels impelled to take up cudgels in defense. In so doing, Life realizes that the splendid showing of the Team in the Union game has modified in large measure any disgruntlement, but is actuated by a supsicion that there still exists, not so much in the College as in the Trustees and the Faculty, considerable dissatisfaction over the present system.

A defense of the system, however, does not infer a satisfaction with the results shown in the two years it has been tried, for Life is far from being complacent, and to be frank, admits that better teams might have been developed by a more experienced player. Still it is wrong, entirely so, to judge the system by two examples, even if they are consecutive, and the only examples.

The Alumni system was instituted two years ago with the entire approval of both Alumni and Undergraduates; the Undergraduates, while not actively promoting its adoption, clearly recognized the necessity of financial retrenchment in the administration of their athletics, while the Alumni wisely comprehended the faults of the alien coach system, to explain which might not be inappropriate.

The alien coach system is inadvisable because of its instability. A graduate from one of the larger universities, though a brilliant player, is not necessarily a good coach in his first year, and in hiring one, the College must take chances. Nor do we reap the benefit of the experience he may gain in his first year, for we seldom feel that we can afford to hire him for a second season. Alien coaches are too apt to overlook the lack of drill our players have had in the fundamentals of the game. Pryor is a good example of that fact for his system of play was adapted to men of exceptional individual ability, not to our untutored players; as a result, even after two season's coaching, our Team was not able to get results from the truly excellent offense he had planned. Why? Simply because Pryor, taking too much for granted, failed to drill the linemen on offensive play and the backs on how properly to interfere. And, lastly, the alien coach system does not provide theory of play for an extended period of years. Every year or two years, the Team must forget a large part of what it has learned of the Amherst style of play for example, to be able well to use the Brown system. And so it goes. It is hard enough to teach men football without trying yearly to unteach them too.

But can the Alumni coaching fulfill the requirements of a good coaching system? These requirements are fourfold: to teach the team football; to instruct the men individually—two radically different things, by the way; to keep the men working hard and enthusiastically; to plan out the system of play to be used in each game to hammer the weakness and to offset the strength of the opposing team, and, lastly, to keep the players in condition.

Omitting all tedious argument in support of its assertion, Life claims that the Alumni are fully competent to meet these demands. But the Alumni system—well carried out, mind you—is superior in that the effect of its work is cumulative—its effects are felt not for one year alone, as in the case of the alien coach system, but so long as the system is continued. The Alumni system creates a distinctive style of play and the only one adapted to the available material. Alumni know the men here better than an alien coach can—know their weaknesses and their strength—and what is very important, know the teams we meet year after year. Under Alumni coaching, one team profits by the experience of the year before and so do the coaches so profit. And that last statement, e. g., that the coaches profit by experience, explains in large measure why we can not fairly judge the efficacy of the Alumni system on the results shown in the past two seasons.

Moore, ex-'10, the Head-coach of a year ago, knew nothing of coach-

ing but he learned as the season progressed. Contrary to expectations, he was not able to continue as Head-coach; his experience was, therefore, lost to the team. Head-coach Sidle, with no pretence to being well qualified for his position except for his experience as a player and Captain, knew nothing of coaching, but he learned as the season progressed. Next year, then, we may expect better results, for, as he probably will again be Head-coach, he will be able to use the experience gained this fall. In other words, the coaching next September will be a continuation, not a beginning.

This fall the really important element of Alumni coaching was lacking, namely, the Alumni. Of the large number of graduates who have done so much for Hamilton football, but four came back to coach: Drummond, '06, was of invaluable assistance to the Team, as he, from his full knowledge of football theory, outlined an exceedingly efficient offense as was seen in the Union game. Barrows, '06, spent some little time coaching, while to Thompson, '06, and Moore, ex-'10, the Team owes that determination and dash exhibited in the St. Lawrence and Union games.

The chief faults of the Team in the earlier part of the season were: a poorly developed kicking game; no interference; no intelligent offensive play in the line; and the lack of that most vital spirit of co-operation and fight. That our kicking game was not good is easily explained: Captain Knox, on whom the duty fell, had never kicked much before. A lack of interference has been evident for the past four years — the backs simply would not interfere. This fault Pryor surely could not remedy. The other two defects should have and would have been remedied had the Alumni come back in the earlier and middle parts of the season. Well, the College saw in the Union game what Thompson and Moore did.

Now, none of the dissatisfied should forget that at the beginning of next season every man who played this year will know exactly what he has to do and how he has to do it. The coach will not have to spend two weeks in learning the players' names, and the whole season in finding out their ability. Back in the brains of Sidle and the Alumni who were back, the qualifications of every player are tabulated and the coaches will be able to start work—not experimentation, mind you—in the first day's practice.

Do not think for a minute of giving up the Alumni system before it has had a fair chance to demonstrate its efficiency. Remember, too, that its results are cumulative, not temporary

LATIN CLUB IS REVIVED.

Clancy, as President, Will Lead the Latin Sharks in Research.

Prof. Chase organized a Latin Club last Wednesday evening at his home. The personnel of the Club, made up of all the Seniors and Juniors in the Latin course and nine Sophomores chosen by the two upper classes from the higest thhird in the Sophomore Latin Class, is as follows: Connell, Thompson, and Warren, '12, Groves, Hahn, Stratton and C. Thompson, '13, Barnes, Bissell, Booth, Brown, Callahan, Dayton, Jessup, Pohl, and Walker, '14. At the meeting Wednesday evening Connell, '12, was unanimously elected president, Groves, '13, vice-president, Dayton, '14, secretary-treasurer, and Prof. Chase to act as regent with the powers of an executive committee. The Club then turned its attention to discussing several possible subjects for its work this year, and finally decided to take up the study of Latin Comedy. The idea of the Club giving a play was discussed somewhat but was left merely as a possibility. Whether or not the idea will materialize will depend upon the attitude of the Club later, after it has done some definite work in the Latin plays. After the business meeting Professor Chase showed the members many photographs of the results of recent excavations in and about Rome, besides a few antiques he had picked up during his stay at Rome. A Latin song more or less successfully attempted and delicious refreshments brought the Latin Club's first meeting to a close. Meetings will be held every other Wednesday evening. In addition to regular study of Latin Comedy, the Club will enjoy illustrated lectures by some of the professors, and papers on topics of interest at Rome will be read from time to time by the members of the Club.

CONCERT COMING.

G. Floyd, King, "The Music Man," Announces Another Attraction.

On Friday evening, at Scollard Opera House, a concert of unusual merit will be given under the management of G. Floyd King. It will include Miss Meta E. White, harp virtuoso, formerly with Madame Nordica, Mr. Newton B. Hammond, reader and impersonator, professor of oratory at Utica Free Academy, Miss Florence Debbold, contralto soloist of Westminster Church, Utica; Edward Elliott, accompanist. Tickets selling at King's store.

OCTOBER LIT. CRITIQUE.

Continued from page 1.

writing, "The End of the Day," violates the first and biggest principle of composition, "clearness." The opening paragraphs also are too sweaty and feverish. Yet, withal, it has parts which redeem it and make it one of the worthy pieces in the magazine.

Mahady's "Miss Chit" lives up to her reputation rather better than does her lover. The shrew, if I catch the drift of the story, tames Petruchio. Just why, is not clear. She truly is saucy but is commonplace as well. "Her speach bewrayeth her." She could have been just as interesting with higher ideals of speech.

The story moves along rapidly and has signs of promise scattered here and there through it which augur success for its author later on. He needs to look up the meanings of "conservative" and "mobile"—and to watch his verbs: "had began" for example.

The editorials are mere scraps. They read as if written from a sense of duty. Not much care is shown in their arrangement on the page; and please, Mr. Editor, dignified prose cannot make too free with abbreviations. "It is," when shortened, carries the apostrophe.

May I make two suggestions in conclusion? (1) There is room for more strictly college verse. (2) Instead of the printer's ornaments to fill out those incomplete pages (seven of them in this month's issue) why could not a capital college joke, or a wise or witty saying caught from some classroom or sermon, or even a sentence culled from your reading and properly acknowledged, be used?

HENRY WHITE.

SIGMA PHI INFORMAL.

The Beta of Sigma Phi entertained November the 18th. The patronesses were Mrs. Stryker, Mrs. Ogden, Mrs. Seely-Brown, Mrs. Judson, Mrs. Soper, and Mrs. Cody. The other guests were Miss Kupper and Miss Suydam of Kansas City, Miss Stone and Miss Rathburn of Brooklyn, Miss Judson of Vernon, Miss Clark and Miss Mauer of Holyoke, Miss Stryker of Clinton, Miss Candee of Syracuse, Miss Bailey of Rome, Miss Yates and Miss Geer of Utica, Mr. Schuyler of Utica, Cody, '08, Soper, '08, and Sidle, '11. One of the many pleasant features of the evening was an informal cotillion. Bergner of Utica furnished the music and J. C. Williams of Clinton was the caterer.

—Debate try-outs December 10.

LOCAL DEPARTMENT

D. E. STONE, '13, Local Editor.

HILL NOTES.

—R. U. Hayes, '05, and H. R. Barrows, '06, had prominent parts in the minstrel show given recently by the Skenandoa Club.

—The Epsilon of Phi Beta Kappa had its regular meeting last Tuesday evening at the home of Prof. Lewis. Prof. Carruth read a paper on the fourth dimension.

—P. L. King, '15, has been elected Manager of the Freshman Basketball Team.

—Last Thursday at his home in Cortland, N. Y., occurred the death of A. L. Benton, '56. Only seven of his classmates survive him.

—Weaver, '14, is a candidate for Assistant Manager of the Musical Clubs.

—Corliss, '13 has been removed to his home in Brooklyn on account of very serious heart trouble. There is some doubt as to whether he will be able to return to College this year.

—Milham, '01, umpired the R. P. I.-Rochester game at Rochester last Saturday.

The following men have won their "H" in football: Capt. Knox, D. Root, C. Root, McGovern and Eells, '12, Fear, Kultcher, Stone and Thompson, '13, Jessup, McLean, Leavenworth, Eddy, Potter and Robinson, '14, and LaForce, '15.

The lumber for the walk below the arbor has arrived and the work of repair will be commenced as soon as the weather permits.

Brandt, '89, and Adams, '91, have been on the Hill recently.

—President Adams of the Chess Club reports that the playing of the first round in the championship tournament will begin this week.

—The standing in the Life competition is as follows: McNair, King, Buchanan, Hudson, Johnson, Kimbal, Clark, Lee, Miller, Hulbert, White, Ritch.

PSI U INFORMAL.

The Psi of Psi Upsilon held an informal dance at the chapter house on Friday evening, November 17th. The patronesses were Mrs. Flagg and Mrs. Burroughs of Albion, Mrs. Davenport, Mrs. Chase and Mrs. Hastings of Clinton. The other guests were Miss Fuller of Gloversville, Miss Webb, Miss Quine, Miss Stand, and Miss Hinkston of Rochester, Miss Hower, Miss Searle, Miss MacFarland, and Miss Atkinson of Rome, Miss McAllister of Gouverneur, Miss McArthur and Miss Burrows of Buffalo, Miss Betty Hakes and Miss Jane Hakes of Ilion, Miss Smith, Miss Adams, Miss Peacock, and Miss Bemis of Syracuse, Miss Starkweather of Johnstown, Miss Thomas and Miss Eggleston of Utica, and Miss Wallace of Albany, Dr. and Mrs. MacFarland of Clinton, Dr. Wood, Prof. MacHarg, Dr. Davenport, Prof. Chase, Prof. Hastings, Dr. MacFarland of Westernville, Mr. and Mrs. Leighton of Binghamton. The Alumni present were Dunham, '07, Ross and Williams, '08, Willoughby, '09, Parry, '11.

Music was furnished by Ryan of Utica. Van Slyke catered.

FACULTY SLIDES NO MORE.

No Longer Will its Members Risk Their Necks to Attend Meetings.

In the good old days when 1912 were Freshmen and "Wardie," of a winter morning came shambling into chapel, bringing with him the all-pervading breath of approaching spring, Faculty meeting and the attendant polemics of the erudite rivaled the Shuberts. Rather the entree provoked hilarious, hysterical emotion. But it's no more. John Manning, with a pensive inhale that portends the bleak cold of the North Woods, wipes vagrant tears from his magnetic, dark brown eyes and sighs—a long, phlegmatic, reminiscent heave. "Brick," patriarch of better times, traces, with vehement self-assertion, the lineage of his twin geldings, as they plough through waist-high drifts and make a cut or two improbable. Yes the good old idays of the Faculty skating fiasco are gone.

Between Carnegie and Philosophy the wind was wont to disport itself with unbridled vehemence. Then, too, the rain and sleet had free access to this open area and often the two combined made a glare patch of glassy ice, extending over that open space some thirty feet and rendering self locomotion impossible. But the Faculty weren't always aware of impending danger and trudging innocently along to the Thursday afternoon pink tea symposium by way of Carnegie they often struck the dangerous space between the two buildings and losing equilibrium and dignity they landed with endearing compact upon the ground, while two hundred men, packed into every available window within seeing distance, howled with glee and wriggled derisive fingers. So, eventually, "Prex" sought out the path by way of Sig Hall, where he was often waylaid, and, in consequence, never appeared at meeting at all. Carruth and "Little Greek" instituted a pseudo grizzly bear glide, whereby working in unison together they managed to cross the danger spot in safety. "Bill Shep" wore skates until he was criticised by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for lavish and unnecessary appropriation of their funds and then took to cutting the meeting entirely. "Bib" wore a pillow instead of an overcoat and "Stink", rash old rascal, merely donned a pair of felt boots and took a big chance. "Brownie" came around by Sig Hall, too, but never stopped. Now, because of the new location of his home, he must evolve another system.

What right those little, measly, insignificant, stubby, homely fir trees have to stand in that nimbussed area gets everybody's "goat," figuratively speaking. Anyhow, the Faculty are safe and the entertainment that relieved the monotony of the long winter afternoons is gone, too.

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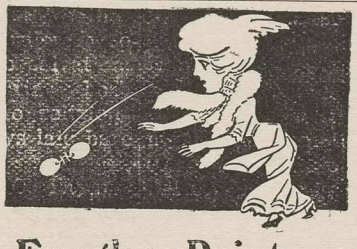

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